GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1825
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2003
AIR POLLUTION IN DELHI
CHARAN DAS MAHANT;UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Environmental Pollution Authority has recommended a complete ban on diesel-run commercial vehicles in the capital;

(b) if so, whether it has also called for strict measures to reduce air pollution in the capital alongwith scrapping the Indraprastha Power Station;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the strategy of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) No, Sir. Only the diesel buses were switched over to Compressed Natural Gas(CNG) and by November, 2002 all the buses were converted or replaced with CNG fleet. Only Bharat Stage-II compliant diesel taxis are allowed to ply in Delhi.

(b)&(c) The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for the National Capital Region has recommended a series of priority measures including augmentation of air quality monitoring network, improved quality of fuels, setting up of independent fuel testing laboratories and phasing out of old vehicles. The Authority has also observed that Indraprastha Power Station has outlived its normal life and should be replaced by gas based power plant.

(d) The Governmenthad set up an Expert Committee on Auto Fuel Policy to lay down the future strategies and a road map for control of vehicular pollution in the country. The Committee recommended various action points which include introduction of cleaner fuels, automobile technologies and their enforcement measures.